

A YOUTHFUL MURDERER.

Tragic Culmination of a Fued Between "Gangs" of Respectable Boys at St. Louis.

TEN-YEAR BOY BECOMES A MURDERER.

The Pistol-Carrying Habit Led to Fretwell Shock Resenting an Insult by One of a Rival "Gang" With a Shot, Which Killed Willie Ledger, Aged Sixteen.

St. Louis, Feb. 15.—Willie Ledger, 16 years old, was shot and instantly killed at nine o'clock Friday night by Fretwell Shock, a ten-year-old lad in knickerbockers, near the corner of Bartmer and Goodfellow avenue, in the western part of the city. He admits that he killed Ledger, but says he aimed at one of Ledger's companions.

The killing was the culmination of a feud that has long existed between two factions composed of the boys of that section of the city. Ledger belonged to what is known as the "De Hodlamont gang" and Shock belonged to the "Cabanne gang." The boys of both factions are the sons of well-to-do and respectable parents. Floyd Shock, the father of the boy under arrest, is a director of George D. Bernard Co., and is now traveling for the firm in Texas.

Willie Ledger's father is dead. He made his home with his mother and his uncle, G. S. Servant. Mr. Servant is employed in the mechanical department of one of the daily papers.

Young Shock related the story of the shooting to the officers as calmly as though he were detailing his participation in a harmless snow-balling bout.

"Yes, I shot Ledger," he said; "but I didn't intend to shoot him. I aimed at that other fellow there," he said, indicating one of Ledger's companions, who was standing in the crowd some distance away. "He knocked me down and was going to do me up, and I didn't intend to get the worst of it. Those fellows were all bigger than me, and they've been beating us every time they run into us."

"That fellow had me down, and the gang of them would have beat me to death if I hadn't shot."

"I raised upon my knees and pulled the revolver, and blazed away. I didn't mean to shoot F. Uger, but the other fellow, who knocked me down."

"I'm sorry if Ledger's dead, but I couldn't help it."

THE THREE SICK BOYS.

All Passed a Quiet Sabbath, Though Howard Potter Had a Spell of Restlessness.

Groton, Feb. 17.—The three sick boys in the Groton school infirmary had a very quiet Sunday, and from a medical point of view a satisfactory one, although in the morning there was some uneasiness about Howard Potter, Dr. L. C. Shattuck, of Boston, was recalled by Dr. Warren for consultation in his case, and later it was stated that young Potter had not had a setback, but simply a spell of restlessness. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and William Gamwell, Jr., continued to show much improvement.

Mrs. Roosevelt spent the greater part of the day at the infirmary with her son and did not leave for the Gardner house until late in the afternoon. Mrs. Alice Roosevelt went for a ride in the morning with Mr. Grafton D. Cushing, of Boston, who spent Sunday here. She lunched later at the home of Mr. John Lawrence, and afterward spent considerable time at the infirmary. Mrs. James Roosevelt, an aunt, arrived here Saturday night.

AIR INDUCED COMBUSTION.

Curious Loss of Bonds and Valuable Papers that Went Through the Paterson Fire intact.

New York, Feb. 16.—Former Attorney General John W. Griggs saw many thousands of dollars' worth of his bonds and valuable papers destroyed in Paterson, N. J., just as he had seen them taken, still intact, from the ruins of the big fire.

These papers were in his private safe in his office, where his splendid law library was burned. The safe was taken from the ruins and the door pried open. Suddenly the papers burst into flames and were reduced to ashes. It is supposed that had generated inside the safe. Among the papers were eight unregistered bonds each of a face value of \$1,000. Gartner Stewart, having offices near those of Mr. Griggs, lost \$10,000 in the same manner. In an adjoining building were the offices of Katz Bros., brewers. In their safe were bonds valued at \$150,000. When the safe was opened its contents were found to be in ashes.

Fire in Elevator Plant.

St. Louis, Feb. 16.—Fire partially destroyed the four-story building occupied by the William A. Miller Co., manufacturers of elevators, 120 Pine street, Friday afternoon. The loss to building, stock and machinery will reach \$10,000; insured up to the 86 per cent. limit.

Distinguished Visitors at Charleston.

Charleston, S. C., Feb. 17.—The Japanese minister, Kogoro Takashira, and his wife arrived at Summerville yesterday from Washington, and will visit the exposition to-day.

MISSOURI STATE NEWS.

Recent Deaths.

Mrs. Henry Boettner, wife of Henry Boettner, of Perryville, from pneumonia. She was 82.

Louis McCullom, foreman of the Democrat-Leader office, Fayette, and a well-known citizen of Fayette, aged 47.

John W. Lionberger, a pioneer, at his home in Laconia, from pneumonia. He located in Jasper county in 1833 and was 75 years old.

Mrs. W. C. Brooks, one of the best-known women and oldest residents of Nevada. She was born at Columbus, Miss., in 1829, and since 1860 had been a resident of Nevada. She was highly cultured and prominent in Nevada church and social circles.

William Elliott, one of the best-known farmers in Pettis county, of appendicitis at his home, ten miles south of Sedalia, aged 66.

J. K. Burgess, aged 80, a resident of St. Joseph for over 40 years, from pneumonia. He was a government contractor at an early day, and carried the mail between St. Joseph and Denver. He was also one of the best-known breeders of racing horses in the state.

Mrs. E. L. Colson, aged 60, at her home, six miles east of Mexico, of pneumonia. The deceased was a member of the Presbyterian church, and leaves a husband and five children.

Mrs. Floyd Prather Allen, aged 49, wife of Rev. Frank W. Allen, a well-known minister of the Christian church of California, of pneumonia.

Col. John W. Polk, aged 72, cousin of former President James K. Polk, and doorkeeper of the house during Cleveland's first administration, in Kansas City.

Burglars Got \$1,100.

A daring burglary was committed in the business part of Carthage, the other night, the burglars securing \$1,100 in cash. Dr. A. H. Hall, the owner of the money, had secured it in among some boards in a closet partitioned from one corner of his bedroom. He resides in a suite of rooms adjoining his office. His family are out of town, and he was in the building alone. He retired at 9:30 o'clock and did not wake until 2 a. m. When he awoke he found every drawer in the furniture had been ransacked and the furniture turned topsy-turvy. Every room in the suite had been visited and searched while he slept, and they finally found the money in his own bedroom closet. The burglars had evidently chloroformed the doctor while he slept.

Death of Joseph B. Upton.

After a year's decline with Bright's disease, Joseph B. Upton, postmaster of Bolivar, passed away, a few days ago, aged about 43.

He was a lawyer with few equals in the state, a politician and a man of state reputation; served as a member of the state legislature from 1880 to 1882 and was a candidate for congress against John T. Reed.

He made the canvass for the nomination for governor on the republican ticket seven years ago. For several years he was managing editor of the Bolivar Free Press. He was a K. of P. and belonged to several other fraternal organizations in which he held \$5,000 life insurance.

Mr. Upton was well connected in every way. He married the daughter of the late Lieut.-Gov. J. J. Greely, and reared a large family. He was a big-hearted man, liberal and generous to a fault.

Arrested at Prison Gate.

Sheriff Joseph Hotz, of Edwardsville, Ill., arrested Edward Ennis at the penitentiary gate, in Jefferson City, just after he had completed a five-year term for horse stealing. Ennis will answer to the same charge in Madison county, Ill.

Heavy Snow in Northern Missouri.

Southern Missouri, south of a line about fifty miles south of St. Louis, was visited by a heavy snow on the 11th. In some localities it fell to the depth of 11 inches, and drifted badly.

Appointed by Gov. Dockery.

Gov. Dockery has appointed Mr. John Smith, of Eldorado Springs, to be judge of the county court of the northern district of Cedar county to succeed Samuel T. Hurt, deceased.

One of Nevada's Prominent Men.

W. P. McDaniel, one of Nevada's most prominent young men and a candidate for county clerk, subject to the action of the democratic party, died a few days ago.

Boy Kills a Boy.

Willie Ledger, aged 16, was shot and killed by Fretwell Shock, aged 10, in St. Louis. It was the culmination of a feud that existed between two rival gangs.

Stricken With Paralysis.

Pierre Hackett, a prominent farmer and ex-president of the Farmers' alliance, had a paralytic stroke while at Butler, and was picked up unconscious.

Death of Judge S. F. Hurt.

S. F. Hurt, judge of the Cedar county court, northern district, died at his home near Balm, of pneumonia. He was an ex-federal soldier.

New County Wanted.

Since the burning of the courthouse at Linn Creek, there is talk of a movement to create a new county out of parts of Camden and Linn.

Killed by a Fall.

James Harlin, of Mercer county, a patient at Hospital for Insane No. 2, St. Joseph, fell through a shaft, 23 feet, and was instantly killed.

Shot His Brother.

Oscar Brown, of Cartersville, Jasper county, mistook his brother, Edward, for a burglar, and shot him in the head. The wound is serious.

Another Airship Man.

A San Francisco inventor writes that he will enter an airship in the World's fair tournament that has a speed of two miles a minute.

IN ELEVENTH CONGRESS.

Opening of the Eleventh Continental Congress of the Daughters of the Revolution.

THE SESSIONS WILL LAST ALL WEEK.

The President-General, Mrs. Charles W. Fairbanks, Occupied the Chair and, After the Opening Exercises, Delivered Her Address of Welcome to the Delegates.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The eleventh continental congress of the national society of the Daughters of the American Revolution convened here with about eight hundred delegates, and others representing chapters in states throughout the country present. The congress has before it many matters of importance to the welfare of the daughters. These include the erecting of a continental memorial hall in this city; the adjustment of international disputes among some of the western chapters which have caused much trouble in the past; needed amendments in the constitution of the order, and projects for securing pensions for needy "daughters" whose fathers were actual fighters in the colonial struggle with England. The congress will last all week, with two sessions a day.

The congress was called to order at ten o'clock by the president-general, Mrs. Charles W. Fairbanks, wife of United States Senator Fairbanks, of Indiana. Mrs. W. A. Smoot, of Virginia, the chaplain-general, offered the opening prayer, in which the entire congress, standing, joined. Led by Percy S. Foster, of this city, the congress sang "The Star-Spangled Banner." Mrs. Fairbanks then delivered her address of welcome. After expressing her gratification at the numbers of those present and what they represented, Mrs. Fairbanks urged upon every daughter the cultivation in the highest degree of reverence to law, devotion to the flag and preservation of the interests in general of the organization. She referred to the pending proposition to reduce the representation of the order as the congress was becoming unwieldy, and said that whatever measure was adopted along this line it would have in view full and complete representation of all the chapters in the country. She showed that there were now approximately 600 chapters, 24 chapters having been added during the past year, increasing the membership by 3,500. This makes the total membership over 40,000.

The morning session closed with a response by Mrs. John F. Swift, of California, to the address of Mrs. Fairbanks. The congress then took a recess until two o'clock in the afternoon. The afternoon programme included roll call, reports of credentials and programme committees, consideration of proposed amendments and announcement of the committee on recommendations of national officers.

Mrs. Carr Re-Elected.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt today was re-elected president of the National American Woman Suffrage association for the ensuing year.

NEW RECIPROCITY SCHEME.

Will Help the Cuban Government While Retaining Protection of Beet Sugar.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Representative H. C. Smith, of Michigan, yesterday introduced a bill amending the act of July 24, 1897, by authorizing the president to negotiate a reciprocity treaty between the United States and Cuba for a period of ten years, by which the United States shall refund to the Cuban government quarterly 40 per cent. of duties on condition that Cuba shall grant a concession of all duties on articles imported by Cuba from the United States, and on condition that no duties shall be refunded on any article for which a bounty has been offered, provided for or paid.

It is explained that Mr. Smith's bill is in line with the general sentiment of the Michigan delegation to protect the beet sugar industry of that state, as the refund proposed is to the Cuban government, and not to the sugar planters.

UNPRECEDENTED FLOODS.

Twenty-Five Persons Drowned and Great Destruction of Property.

Cape Town, Feb. 18.—Unprecedented floods have occurred in the southwestern portion of Cape Colony, resulting in great destruction of houses, bridges and railroad property. Twenty-five persons have been drowned.

NEGRO MINSTREL LYNCHED.

Sequel to a Row at a Minstrel Show at New Madrid, Mo., Saturday Night.

New Madrid, Mo., Feb. 18.—Louis Wright, a negro minstrel belonging to the Richard & Pringle troupe, which showed here Saturday night, was taken from jail, Sunday night, by a crowd of masked men and hanged. This was the sequel to a row at the show, Saturday night, during which several shots were fired and a number of persons wounded.

THE TRANSCAUCASUS QUAKE.

Late Reports Indicate the Loss of Upwards of Two Thousand Human Lives.

Baku, Trans-Caucasia, Feb. 18.—Details which are slowly arriving at Baku from Shamakha, show that 2,000 persons, mostly women and children, perished as a result of the earthquake, last week, and that 4,000 houses were destroyed.

Thirty-four villages of the country surrounding Shamakha also suffered.

To add to the terrors of the neighborhood, a volcano near the village of Marasy, eastward of Shamakha, has broken out into active eruption. A great crevasse has appeared, whence immense flames and streams of lava are being thrown out. The course of the river Geonchaika has been altered in consequence of its bed being dammed with earth which had been disturbed by the earthquake.

Battalions of guards and detachments of soldiers with tents have been dispatched to Shamakha to aid in the work of rescue.

RETURNED WITH A FORTUNE.

A Woman Who Made Over a Million in the Klondike While Her Husband Steered a Car.

Toledo, O., Feb. 18.—Mrs. Charles Purdy has returned to Toledo from the Klondike with a fortune. During her four years' residence in the Klondike, besides keeping a boarding house and hotel she bought and sold claims aggregating millions of dollars, and when she finally picked up stakes and came away she was worth over \$1,000,000 in gold dust.

Mrs. Purdy and her husband started west nearly ten years ago. It is said that at Vancouver they disagreed about going farther, the husband returning to Tacoma, where he is now said to be a motorman for a street car company. Mrs. Purdy went on to Alaska and, from all accounts, prospered.

WELL-KNOWN INVENTOR DEAD.

George Eitel, Inventor and Manufacturer of Incubators and Hay Presses is Dead.

Quincy, Ill., Feb. 18.—George Eitel, inventor and manufacturer of incubators and hay presses, died, Sunday night, at Pinta, Ariz., on a train crossing the desert en route to Quincy. He was suffering from Bright's disease, and had spent the winter on his ranch in California. Lately, he had grown worse and was being brought home to die. The decedent was born in Germany, 12 years ago. He amassed a large fortune by his inventions.

RESCUED BY NEIGHBORS.

Narrow Escape of Henry C. McElowney and Family From Cremation at Pittsburg, Pa.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 18.—Henry C. McElowney, president of the Union Trust Co., his wife and their three children were rescued from their burning home at Homewood avenue and Wightman street, early Monday morning, by neighbors with ladders. Their handsome residence, into which they moved a few weeks ago, was totally destroyed, the loss on it and on its contents being nearly \$50,000.

THE WORK OF SAFE BURGLARS.

Two Safes Blown at Northampton, Mass., by Five Men, Who Made Their Escape.

Northampton, Mass., Feb. 18.—Five men blew open two safes in the street railway company's office here early Monday morning, after overpowering the watchman. They secured about \$750 in cash and \$300 in checks. In their haste they overlooked \$500 in one of the safes. They escaped with a team, and when the watchman succeeded in getting a gag out of his mouth so as to give the alarm, all trace of them had been lost.

GOUDIE PLEADED GUILTY.

The Alleged Parties to the Robberies of the Bank of Liverpool Arraigned and Plead.

London, Feb. 18.—When the charges against the men accused of participation in the robberies of the Bank of Liverpool were brought up for a hearing at the Old Bailey, Thos. P. Goudie, the bookkeeper, pleaded guilty, and "Dick" Burge, the pugilist; F. D. Kelly, a bookmaker, and Stiles, another bookmaker, who are charged with complicity in the frauds, pleaded not guilty.

Made a Millionaire by Death.

Guthrie, Okla., Feb. 18.—Mrs. E. A. Cook, of Shawnee, a restaurant keeper, has authorized the announcement of the death of an uncle in Luzon, Philippine Islands, leaving her an estate of \$1,000,000.

SIX YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

Sentence Imposed Upon a German Military Officer for Killing a Civilian in a Duel.

Hanover, Prussia, Feb. 18.—A court-martial condemned Herr Falkenhagen, an officer of the army reserve, to six years' imprisonment in a fortress for killing Landrath Von Benningsen, in a duel, January 16, in the emperor's hunting park at Springe, as the result of a quarrel growing out of the conduct of the wife of Herr Von Benningsen.

ANOTHER SEVERE STORM.

New York City in the Grip of a Howling Blizzard and Snow Storm.

THE WORST EXPERIENCED SINCE 1888.

All Travel Blocked and Traffic on the Streets Completely Suspended—Communication with Outlying Points Cut Off and Business of All Kinds at a Standstill.

New York, Feb. 17.—New York city has borne the brunt of the fiercest snowstorm that has struck this section of the country since the great blizzard of 1888. Beginning soon after midnight, the storm increased rapidly until, by daybreak, the whole city was completely snowed under. The rising force of the gale piled the snow in great drifts that for a time almost suspended traffic, except in the main thoroughfares, where the car tracks were only kept open by the constant use of the snow plows and sweepers.

Communication between Manhattan and Brooklyn was subject to long delays. Ferryboats with difficulty made trips across the ice-choked rivers, and the work of tugboats, lighters and shipping generally was almost at a standstill. So heavy was the snowfall that the loading of vessels was stopped, it being almost impossible to keep the hatches open. The few steamers which arrived during the night struggled as far as quarantine, where they came to anchor. Several steamers are supposed to be off Sandy Hook waiting for the storm to abate before entering the port.

To-night the local weather bureau reports that the worst of the snowfall, which began to abate in the afternoon, is probably over. The fall up to three o'clock this afternoon was 9.3-15 inches.

This afternoon hurricane warnings were hoisted at Sandy Hook and New York, and many vessels are detained in port. There was considerable delay in the arrival of the mails. The Chicago mail, due at 4:45 a. m., did not get in until 7:35, and the Washington mail was an hour and a quarter late. The local deliveries of mail were hampered by the difficulty of driving the wagons through the snow-encumbered streets. All outgoing mails were closed from 30 minutes to an hour before the usual time.

Trains on the New York Central were from two to three hours late, and all mail service between the city and points on Long Island were practically suspended. Trains on all the lines terminating in Jersey City were two hours behind time, during the morning, but toward evening the schedules were more nearly maintained. On the New York Central through trains were being moved nearly on time by taking off many of the local trains.

The congestion of traffic on the Manhattan street car lines was severe during the morning, when many of the avenues were blocked with long lines of stalled cars. On Broadway wheel traffic was confined to the narrow lanes between high snow piles and along these cars, trucks and cabs crawled with small pace. From either thoroughfare truck traffic disappeared almost entirely.

In the shopping district the blockade was so complete that several of the great department stores closed at four o'clock.

Four thousand men set to work to clear the streets of Manhattan early in the afternoon. Of these half were engaged in opening crosswalks, while 2,500 men and 300 trucks were employed to work all night clearing the main streets.

On the elevated lines there was considerable delay in the early hours, but by the evening rush all trains were running on time, although enormously overcrowded owing to the interruption on the surface lines.

The Brooklyn bridge was kept clear of snow from the time the storm began, but both the elevated and trolley cars were crowded to their utmost capacity, although many thousands of Brooklynites preferred the perilous passage of the ferries to participating in the crush on the bridge.

Throughout Brooklyn the blockade was even more general than in Manhattan, and little progress was made by the street cleaning department beyond opening crosswalks on the principal streets.

Coney Island, Fort Hamilton and Canarsie were completely cut off from all communications over the Brighton Beach road. During the day not over 50 per cent. of the cars of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit system were in operation, and thousands were compelled to make their way on foot to the ferries.

Staten Islanders suffered more than the residents of any of the boroughs of Greater New York. The boats were all much behind time, and no effort was made to keep schedule time, the main trouble being due to the great masses of ice packed in the slips at St. George. The island itself was completely snowed under and the movement of trolleys or trains was brought to a halt. Even sleighs were unable to make their way through the great drifts. In the afternoon a few trains were got through on the North Shore by using the big freight engines of the Baltimore & Ohio road.

HOBSON TO BE RETIRED.

Incapacitated by Retinitis Caused by Long Service Under a Glaring Sun.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The president yesterday sent to the senate a message recommending the retirement of Naval Constructor Richmond P. Hobson and, in accordance with this recommendation, Senator Gallinger immediately added a bill providing for Mr. Hobson's transfer to the retired list. In his message the president gives as his reason the trouble that Mr. Hobson has had since 1900 with his eyes, and recites the history of that trouble.

It appears that in June, 1900, he was admitted to the naval hospital at Yokohama, Japan, when, according to the records, he suffered from weakness of the eyes and retinitis, which infirmities, it was stated, had been contracted while on duty in repairing ships at Hong Kong. In January, 1902, he was examined by a retiring board, which decided that his incapacity was not such as to justify retirement.

The president's message concludes as follows:

"Without suggesting that any injustice has been done by this finding, and while in effect pronouncing it correct, Mr. Hobson states in a letter addressed to the secretary of the navy February 3, 1902, that 'the duty required in the construction corps in connection with plans and blue prints and in connection with inspection and supervision in the glare at shipyards and navy yards, requires just the kind of use of the eyes that is painful and injurious and would tend to thwart their recovery; that the condition of his eyes has improved since his return to the United States while on special duty not in the usual line of work of the construction corps; but that under these favorable conditions the irritation and sensitiveness continue, and show that he should not undertake work that taxes the eyes in the future.'"

He accordingly asks such legislation authorizing his retirement as for disabilities incurred in the line of duty. This request is approved by the chief of construction and by the secretary of the navy.

"In consideration of the foregoing, but especially of the gallant service rendered by Mr. Hobson in the sinking of the Merrimack in the harbor of Santiago during the recent war with Spain, I recommend the enactment of a favorable measure for his relief."

The bill introduced by Senator Gallinger authorizes the president to "transfer to the retired list of the navy as for disabilities incurred in the line of duty, Naval Constructor Richmond P. Hobson, U. S. N., at the rate of pay provided by Section 1588 of the Revised Statutes, in the case of officers retired on account of incapacity resulting from long and faithful service."

ON AN EIGHT-HOUR BASIS.

Radical Changes in the Chicago Postal Service—A Costly Venture.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Radical changes in the Chicago postal service have been arranged by General Superintendent George W. Beavers, of the salary and allowances division of the post office department, and J. H. Masten, chief clerk of the first assistant postmaster general, who returned to Washington yesterday, from Chicago, where they spent most of last week. They arranged that on and after February 20, the entire service of the Chicago post office shall be put on an eight-hour basis, that is, a nine-hour service, with one hour for meals. This will be accomplished by the appointment of 50 additional clerks in the mail division of the central station, ten additional clerks in the Union Depot station and four additional clerks in other outside stations.

DANISH TREATY RATIFIED.

The Treaty for the Acquisition of the Danish West Indies Ratified By the Senate.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The senate ratified the Danish treaty without amending it in any particular.

Senator Bacon proposed an amendment eliminating the paragraph in the treaty giving authority to congress to fix the civil and political rights of the inhabitants, but it was voted down by a viva voce vote. Senator Cullom then explained the provisions of the treaty in detail. The resolution to ratify was adopted without division.

War Tax Repeal Bill Passed.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The bill to repeal the war revenue taxes was passed unanimously by the house, 278 members voting aye.

Horton-Butler Contested Election.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The case of Horton vs. Butler, from the Twelfth Missouri district, was argued, yesterday, before the house committee on elections No. 1.

Fatal Explosion on Coasting Steamer. Marseilles, Feb. 18.—A small coasting steamer, the Pioneer, was wrecked during a snowstorm, yesterday, near Toulon. Afterwards an explosion of gas on board the steamer killed the captain and a passenger and injured two other passengers.

Suicide of a Well-Known Engineer.

Philadelphia, Feb. 18.—John Griffiths, a well-known civil engineer and a man of wealth, committed suicide at his home in Jenkintown, a suburb, by blowing out his brains with a shotgun. He was 49 years old.